

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 June 2004 (10.06.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/049232 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 17/60**

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2003/036991

(22) International Filing Date:

20 November 2003 (20.11.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/428,062	21 November 2002 (21.11.2002)	US
60/428,443	22 November 2002 (22.11.2002)	US
10/611,037	30 June 2003 (30.06.2003)	US

(71) Applicant: **AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES COMPANY, INC.** [US/US];
American Express Tower, World Financial Center, New
York City, Ny New York 10285-4900 (US).

(72) Inventor: **IYER, Meera**; 2110 South boulevard, #2, Hous-
ton, TX 77098 (US).

(74) Agent: **SOBELMAN, Howard, I.**; Snell & Wilmer
L.L.P., One Arizona Center, 400 E. Van Buren, Phoenix,
AZ 85004-2202 (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR,
CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD,
GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN,
MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

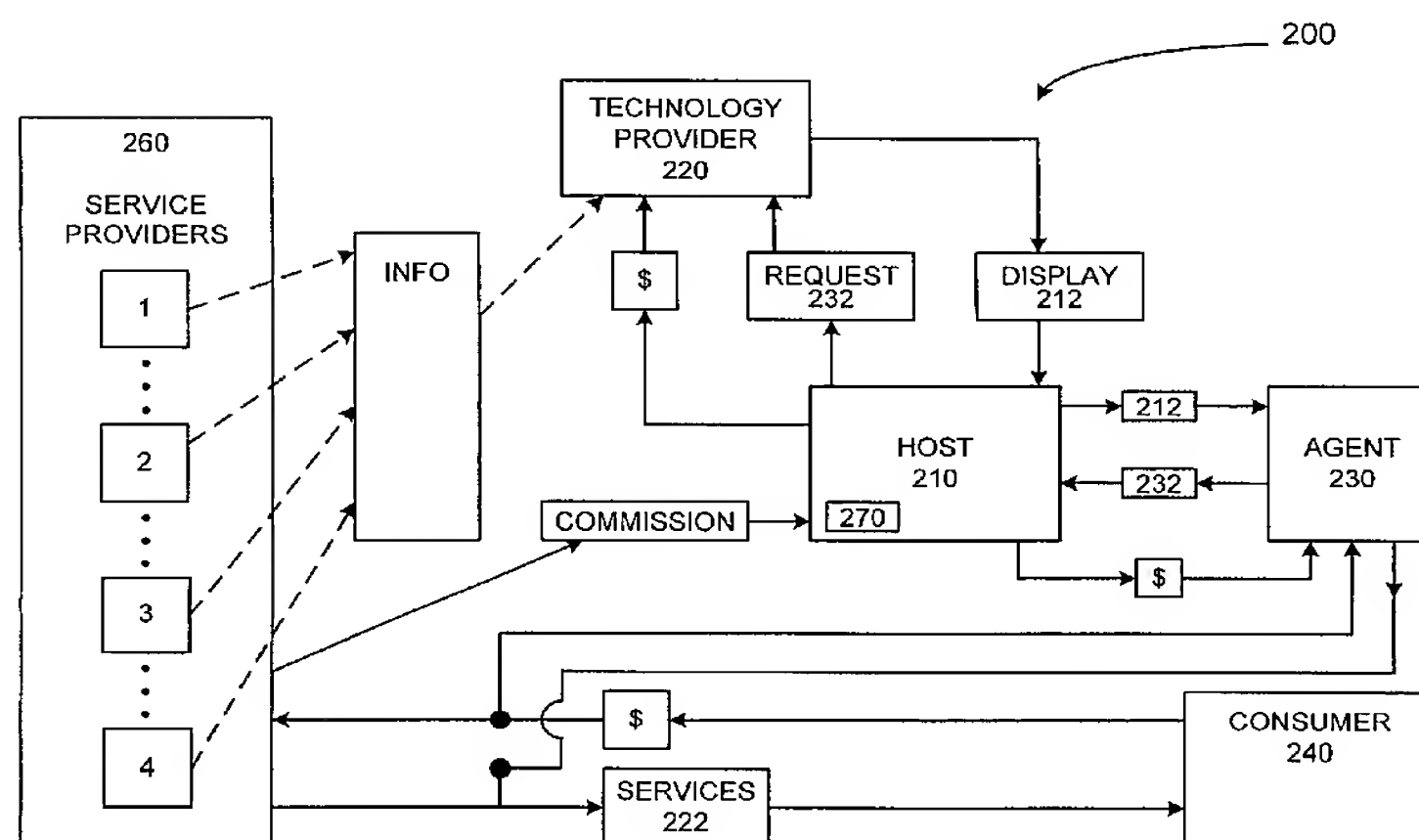
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING TRANSACTIONS AMONG CONSUMERS AND PROVIDERS OF TRAVEL SERVICES



(57) Abstract: A system for facilitating transactions among consumers and providers of travel related services (fig.2) includes a technology provider (220) and a host (210) in communication with an agent (230) and a provider of travel-related services (260). The technology provider (220) is configured for operating independently from any provider of travel-related services (260). The host is configured for receiving a request (232) from the agent, retrieving one or more displays from the technology provider, presenting the displays to the agent, and facilitating a transaction among the consumer (240) and the provider of travel-related services. A display comprises an information content such as available inventory from a predefined carrier within a predefined time period. The display may be configured for excluding content, for example, in accordance with a predefined editing criteria. The format may be configured for presenting information in accordance with one or more predefined ranking criteria, which may be a discriminatory criteria, such as an identity of a carrier.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/36991

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 705/5,6

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/5,6

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
East**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,948,040 A (DELORME et al) 7 September 1999 (07.09.1999), Figs. 1-4, col.s 1 through 78	1-10



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

*** Special categories of cited documents:**

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

08 March 2004 (08.03.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

09 APR 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized Signature
John Weiss

Telephone No. 703-308-1113